

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a partisan attack on Senator Kerry that is clearly intended to change the outcome of an election. Since Sinclair Broadcasting uses public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This obligation to serve public interest and their intention to broadcast "Stolen honor" are in direct conflict with one another and hence illegal.

Besides the issue of illegality, the larger issue is the harm inflicted on democracy that is caused by such actions. Are we going to allow media organizations that use public air waves free of charge to control what we see, hear, and think? Are we going to allow these organizations to shape our political views and affiliations? Are we going to allow these organizations to affect the outcome of elections? The answer to all these questions are a resounding NO.

Sinclair Broadcasting claims that "Stolen Honor" is a piece of news, and hence they are obligated to cover it. Far from it. It is not news, it is political commentary and compilation of opinions. "Stolen Honor" is as much news as is the pro-Kerry program "Going Upriver." If Sinclair is so concerned about covering the "news," they should show both movies back to back, both during normal viewing hours. Needless to say, they will be reluctant to do so. This shows their true intention. I am in favor of not showing either movie on public air waves free of charge.

Please take action to stop Sinclair from broadcasting the partisan political commentary "Stolen Honor" on public air waves on the eve of an important election to affect it.

Thank you.